

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 1 62 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston assembly.

3. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 1 61 wherein said deck further comprises a flap depending from one of said at least three sides of said deck.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Amended) The mower head of claim 1 62 wherein said actuating member is mounted on said deck at a location spaced from said hinge.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 9 66 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston, said cylinder including a chamber surrounding said piston.

11. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 9 65 wherein one of said at least three sides comprises a plurality of angled sections.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 9 65 wherein said deck further comprises a fourth side and at least three side walls, one depending from at least three of said four sides, wherein two of said at least three side walls are rigid.

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14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim ~~16~~ 65 wherein one of said at least three sides further comprises an extension which protrudes under said guard.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim ~~18~~ 69 wherein said actuating member comprises a hydraulic cylinder and a piston assembly.

20-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim ~~1~~ 63, wherein said flap is a resilient, one-piece flap.

39. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim 9 67, wherein said flap is a resilient, one-piece flap.

40. (Currently Amended) The mower head of claim ~~18~~ 70, wherein said flap is a resilient, one-piece flap.

41-60. (Canceled)

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61. (New) A mower head comprising:

a deck having at least three sides and at least one side wall depending from said deck;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and

a guard assembly comprising a guard pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which is mounted to two of said at least three sides of said deck and extends at an obtuse angle in relation to two of said at least three sides of said deck and wherein a horizontal plane of said guard, in its entirety, is coplanar with a horizontal plane of said deck, in one orientation of said guard.

62. (New) The mower head of claim 61, further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck, wherein said guard is attached to said actuating member.

63. (New) The mower head of claim 61, wherein said deck further comprises a flap depending from said guard and movable in relation to said guard.

64. (New) The mower head of claim 63, wherein said flap is oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

65. (New) A mower head comprising:

a deck having at least three sides;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

5 a hinge extending between and mounted to two of said at least three sides of said deck at an angle with respect to said two of said at least three sides, and

a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, wherein a horizontal plane of said guard is parallel to, and spaced from, a horizontal plane of said deck in one orientation of said guard.

66. (New) The mower head of claim 65, further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

67. (New) The mower head of claim 66, further comprising a flap which depends from said guard.

68. (New) A mower head comprising:

a deck comprising:

at least four sides, and

5 three side walls, one depending from each of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said three side walls are rigid;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade; and

10 a guard assembly comprising:

a hinge mounted to and extending at an angle in relation to two adjacent ones of said at least four sides of said deck,

a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and

said guard including a plurality of discretely angled sections.

69. (New) The mower head of claim 68, further comprising an actuating member mounted on said deck.

70. (New) The mower head of claim 68, further comprising a flap which depends from said guard and is movable in relation to said guard

71. (New) The mower head of claim 70, wherein said flap is oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said guard.

72. (New) A mower head comprising:

a deck having at least four sides including a front side;

a boom arm to which said deck is mounted, said boom arm being positioned adjacent a first side edge of said mower head;

a guard assembly comprising:

a hinge extending at an angle between said front side and an adjacent one of said sides of said deck; and

a guard pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, said guard being positioned adjacent a second side edge of said mower head, said second side edge being located opposite said first side edge.

73. (New) A mower head comprising:

a deck having four sides;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said blade;

5 a guard assembly comprising a guard pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which extends between two adjacent ones of said four sides of said deck such that said guard is positioned in a first corner of said deck; and said guard being selectively pivotable to a position above a plane of said deck; and

10 wherein said deck comprises a second corner, located adjacent said guard assembly, said second corner comprising two side walls which are rigid and non-moving, wherein a first side of said deck includes both said first corner and said second corner.

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